



Self-Evaluation: God's Work in our Lives

Paul Bucknell & Ed Jiang

Purpose: Observe the areas that (1) God has worked and (2) still desires to work in our lives.

1. Do you tend to worry?	Not at all 1	3	5	Always 7
2. Do you daily meet with God (quiet time)?	Every day 1	3	5	Not usually 7
3. Is your life and moods best described as up and down, dependent on your circumstances?	Not at all 1	3	5	Always 7
4. Do you lack the desire to be holy in one or more areas of your lives?	Not at all 1	3	5	Always 7
5. Do you tend to react to those with whom you disagree?	Not at all 1	3	5	Always 7
6. Are you always looking for a smile from others?	Not at all 1	3	5	Always 7
7. Is it easy to forgive others?	By grace, yes 1	3	5	Very difficult 7
8. Do you allow your temper to control you?	Not at all 1	3	5	Always 7
9. Are you focused on the needs of those around you?	Yes, all the time 1	3	5	Not usually 7
10. Do you find yourself living aimlessly or basically letting circumstances decide your next step?	Not at all 1	3	5	Always 7
11. You are noted for saying kind words to others.	People often say that 1	3	5	No 7
12. Do you tend to offend others?	Not at all 1	3	5	Always 7
13. Do you sense God's total forgiveness for your sins?	Yes, I do 1	3	5	Weighed down by guilt 7
14. Is God's Word rather dull at times?	Not at all 1	3	5	Always 7
15. Do you think about deepening your love for God?	Yes, quite often 1	3	5	Not often 7
16. Do you allow your desires to make decisions you later regret?	Not at all 1	3	5	Always 7
17. Are you encouraged in your prayer times?	Yes, very much 1	3	5	Prayer doesn't work 7
18. Do you have a hard time receiving criticisms?	Not at all 1	3	5	Always 7
19. Do you feel sad and as if no one really cares for you?	Not at all 1	3	5	Always 7
20. Do you find yourself frustrated about things you want to do?	Not at all 1	3	5	Always 7

Processing the Self-Evaluation

Paul J. Bucknell

This self-evaluation exercise sheet helps a person discover areas in which he might have or not have hope. The objective is clear: Strengthen a believer's hope and growth so that he can equip others to do the same.

General assessment

Find the total by adding all the numbers. With twenty questions there is a possibility of 140 points (20 X 7). If your numbers are above 70 points, then there is some basic flaw in the way you perceive or live out your spiritual life. There are several areas that you are facing difficulties, though they likely have a common problem and solution. Once found, it can help you a lot. This series' goal is to help you to grow in these areas.

If you scored below 70 points, you are generally doing some things right that help in the overall discipline of your lives. Be encouraged! Through this series we want you to be able to better communicate these things to others.

Specific assessment

The next thing to do is go through your sheet and circle your three or four questions with the highest and lowest scores. We want to see areas in which God has been working in your lives (with scores 1-3) and areas that God still is seeking to do some special work (with scores 5-7).

◆ Testimony focus

Those with a low score are the areas in which God has given you extra grace. These are the areas which will become the areas that God will use you to encourage and mentor others. Many people are not aware of the areas that they are strong in. This self-evaluation helps one be more aware of these.

Even though a person is aware of some strong areas of development in their own spiritual lives, this does not mean they know how to help another in this area. This is a bit more difficult at first but one's courage and focus is aided with a little guidance. Discipleship Level 2 focuses not only in helping you to develop but to also help you grow others. As we go through different examples, different patterns will develop, you will observe them and then be able to articulate them.

◆ Growth focus

Some areas you might have scores from 5-7. These are areas that God is interested in helping you personally to grow in. Some people might do well on all but a few questions. Be encouraged but realize that God wants you to grow in each and every area of your life. That area might not even be mentioned on the evaluation sheet! These are the areas that our faith must be built up. Weak spots often overlap into other areas of our lives but sometimes they are confined because of other restraints. The Lord as your Strength and Lover will work with you until you overcome.

You might be thinking that you have tried hard to overcome some particular life struggle, but it has a stranglehold on you. Every time you start responding to the Lord, this struggle pulls you down. This series is designed to help break through these difficult areas. More prayer and study might be needed, but you will gain the hope and focus to move forward.

Summary

One can use this evaluation sheet for oneself or for others to help people spot strong and weak points in their spiritual lives. One does not need to pass out this sheet for them to fill in. The questions are meant to help you make observations of your own lives and others. We are not observing others to condemn them (we always need to be careful of this - Galatians 6:1) but making observations to encourage them. "Bear one another's burdens, and thus fulfill the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2). We are seeking how God might want us to help and encourage others. In a positive sense, you might go up to a brother and tell him how much his faithfulness in a certain area has been a help to you. Or God might put someone on your heart, and you are prayerfully wondering how you can be of help to that person. These questions might help you get started.

Just like a physician, get an overview of the person, taking a general look into every area, but trying to identify the most sore spot. The acuteness of pain, or in our case, the greatest amount of hopelessness, is probably where we need to start working.